

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of establishing which control area shown on a display of a computing device has been selected by a user, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) representing each of a set of device control actions by a single different color from a set of unique colors using a predefined lookup table;

(b) associating each of a plurality of selectable control areas of said display with only one of the different colors in a color mask, such that a one-to-one relationship is established between each selectable control area and one of said single different colors, respectively;

(c) storing said color mask in a memory of said computing device;

(d) generating a set of co-ordinates for a contact location on the display while said color mask is not displayed on said display;

(e) retrieving the color mask color by obtaining the color assorted with a pixel in said color mask at a location corresponding to said set of co-ordinates; and

(f) establishing the control area and the device control action which is associated with the same color as the retrieved color.

2. (original): The method of Claim 1 in which the color mask is obtained using a bit map of the control areas.

3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 2 in which said lookup table of the set of unique colors is stored in device memory, together with a reference to each associated selectable control area.

4. (original) The method of Claim 3 in which each of the unique colors in the table is represented as an unsigned integer.

5. (original) The method of Claim 4 in which each of the unique colors in the color mask is represented as an unsigned integer and the unsigned integer representing the color at the set of co-ordinates is compared against each unsigned integer in the table until a match is found.

6. (original) The method of Claim 5 in which, when a match is found, the corresponding selectable control area is then established using the table.

7. (original) The method of Claim 1 in which a selectable control area can be any arbitrary shape so long as the color mask region corresponding to that arbitrary shape can be filled with a single color.

8. (original) The method of Claim 2 in which the arrangement or design of the different selectable control areas is updatable to a different arrangement or design by altering the bit map of the control areas and the color mask.

9. (original) The method of Claim 8 in which altering the bit map of the control areas and the color mask is performed using a paint application.

10. (Currently amended) A computing device adapted to establish which control area shown on a display of the computing device has been selected by a user, the device being adapted to:

(a) represent each of a set of device control actions by a single different color from a set of unique colors using a predefined lookup table;

(b) associate each of a plurality of selectable control areas of said display with only one of the different colors in a color mask, such that a one-to-one relationship is established between each selectable control area and one of said single different colors, respectively;

(c) store said color mask in a memory of said computing device;

(d) generate a set of co-ordinates for a contact location on the display while said color mask is not displayed on said display;

(e) retrieve the color mask color by obtaining the color assorted with a pixel in said color mask at a location corresponding to said set of co-ordinates; and

(f) establish the control area and the device control action which is associated with the same color as the retrieved color.

11. (original): The device of Claim 10 in which the color mask is obtained using a bit map of the control areas.

12. (Previously presented): The device of Claim 11 in which said lookup table of the set of unique colors is stored in device memory, together with a reference to each associated selectable control area.

13. (original) The device of Claim 12 in which each of the unique colors in the table is represented as an unsigned integer.

14. (original) The device of Claim 13 in which each of the unique colors in the color mask is represented as an unsigned integer and the unsigned integer representing the color at the set of co-ordinates is compared against each unsigned integer in the table until a match is found.

15. (original) The device of Claim 14 which, when a match is found, establishes the corresponding selectable control area using the table.

16. (original) The device of Claim 10 in which a selectable control area can be any arbitrary shape so long as the color mask region corresponding to that arbitrary shape can be filled with a single color.

17. (Currently amended) Application software programmed to run on a computing device, in which the application software causes each of several different selectable control areas to be displayed on the device and comprises a color mask that is not displayed on said device, the color mask being made up of regions that each correspond to one of the control areas and with each control area being associated with a single different unique color, such that a one-to-one relationship is established between each selectable control area and one of said single different unique colors, respectively.

18. (Currently amended) A method of establishing which control area shown on a display of a computing device has been selected by a user, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) defining a plurality of selectable control-areas by displaying on said display a control bitmap comprising a plurality of non-rectangular icons;

(b) associating said selectable control-areas with a color-mask having a plurality of regions corresponding substantially in shape to said non-rectangular icons and wherein each of said regions has an associated single unique color-mask color, such that a one-to-one relationship is established between each selectable control area and one of said single unique color-mask colors, respectively;

(c) associating each of said unique color-mask colors with a specific device function such that each device function is associated with a different single unique color-mask color;

(d) storing said color-mask in a device memory;

(e) generating a set of co-ordinates for a contact location on said display while displaying said control bitmap;

(f) retrieving the color-mask color corresponding to that set of co-ordinates;
and

(g) performing said specific device function associated with the retrieved color mask color.